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Attorney Docket: D1815-00025DIV1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of: : Attorney Docket No. D1815-00025DIV1  
Cooper et al. :  
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned : Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
For: **REINFORCED CEMENTITIOUS BOARDS AND METHODS OF MAKING  
SAME**

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Date of Deposit:

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Washington, DC 20231

Name: Steven E. Koffs

Signature:

Steven E. Koffs

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified Divisional Application, prior to taking the case up for  
examination, as follows:

**In the claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Unchanged) Reinforcement for cementitious boards comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands continuously covered by alkali-resistant thermoplastic material.
2. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to fuse said thermoplastic material at areas where said strands intersect.
3. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is heated after formation thereof to provide a continuous coating of said thermoplastic material on said strands.
4. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of olefins, ethylene propylene rubber, thermoplastic polyolefin rubber, polyvinylidene chloride, ethylene-propylene diene monomer and copolymers of polybutylene and propylene.
5. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh has a strand count of about 2 to about 18 strands per inch in each direction.

6. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said strands comprise bundled glass fibers having a linear density of about 33 to about 300 tex.
7. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 1 wherein said mesh is no greater than about 0.020 inch in thickness.
8. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 3 wherein said thermoplastic material is fibrous.
9. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 8 wherein said fibrous thermoplastic material is friction spun on said strands.
10. (Unchanged) The reinforcement of claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic material is co-extruded with said strands to provide a continuous coating about said strands.
11. (Amended) A substantially planar cementitious board having first and second opposed faces, said cementitious board comprising:
  - cementitious matrix material; and
  - reinforcement embedded within said cementitious matrix material, said reinforcement comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands continuously covered by alkali-resistant thermoplastic material.

12. The cementitious board of claim 11 wherein said reinforcement is disposed about 1/16 to about 1/32 inch beneath at least one of said first and second opposed faces.

13. The cementitious board of claim 12 wherein said board is about 1/4 to about 5/8 inch in thickness.

Please cancel claims 14-35, without prejudice.

[illegible]

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 were subjected to a restriction requirement and were withdrawn from consideration in the parent application.

Claim 11 has been amended to conform to the language of claim 1. This amendment is not related to patentability of original claim 11, but is being made so as to present a single invention for examination within this one divisional application. Claims 11-13 now include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 14-35 are being cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 1-13 are pending in the application.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment which may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 27, 2001

Steven E. Koffs

Melanie S. Goddard, Reg. No. 46,732  
Steven E. Koffs, Registration No: 37,163  
DUANE, MORRIS & HECKSCHER LLP  
One Liberty Place  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7396  
(215) 979-1000

MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

11. (Amended) A substantially planar cementitious board having first and second opposed faces, said cementitious board comprising:
- cementitious matrix material; and
- reinforcement embedded within said cementitious matrix material, said reinforcement comprising an open mesh of high modulus of elasticity fiber strands continuously [coated with] covered by alkali-resistant thermoplastic material.

Please cancel claims 14-35, without prejudice.